



Advent Reading Plan

As you go through this reading plan as a family, with your spouse, or on your own, here are a few questions to ask each night:

What does this teach me about God?

What did I like?

What didn't I like?

If I was to apply what was learned about God to something in my life this week, what might that look like?

December 1

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 12-17

Regular Bible: Psalm 19: 1; Hebrews 1:10

"You see, the best thing about this Story is – it's true." (Lloyd-Jones, 17)

Memory Verse for the week:

Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

December 2

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 18-27

Regular Bible: Genesis 1:1-25

"But all the stars and the mountains and oceans and galaxies and everything were nothing compared to how much God loved his children. He would move heaven and earth to be near them. Always. Whatever happened, whatever it cost him, he would always love them. And so it was that the wonderful love story began..." (Lloyd-Jones, 27)

December 3

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 28-37

Regular Bible: Genesis 3:1-24

"Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: 'It will not always be so! I will come to rescue you! And when I do, I'm going to do battle against the snake. I'll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness you let in here. I'm coming back for you!' And he would. One day, God himself would come." (Lloyd-Jones, 36)

December 4

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 38-47

Regular Bible: Genesis 6:9-14; 6:17-22; 8:15-22

“It wasn’t long before everything went wrong again but God wasn’t surprised, he knew this would happen. That’s why, before the beginning of time, he had another plan – a better plan. A plan not to destroy the world, but to rescue it – a plan to one day send his own Son, the Rescuer. God’s strong anger against hate and sadness and death would come down once more – but not on his people, or his world.” (Lloyd-Jones, 47)

December 5

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 48-55

Regular Bible: Genesis 11:1-9

You see, God knew, however high they reached, however hard they tried, people could never get back to heaven by themselves. People didn’t need a staircase; they needed a Rescuer. Because the way back to heaven wasn’t a staircase; it was a Person. People could never reach up to Heaven, so Heaven would have to come down to them. And, one day, it would.” (Lloyd-Jones, 54)

December 6

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 56-61

Regular Bible: Genesis 15:5; 21:1-7

“God would do as he promised. He would always look after Abraham’s family, his special people. And one day, God would send another baby, a baby promised to a girl who didn’t even have a husband. But this baby would bring laughter to the whole world. This baby would be everyone’s dream come true.” (Lloyd-Jones, 60)

December 7

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 62-69

Regular Bible: Genesis 22:1-18

“God was getting ready to give the whole world a wonderful present. It would be God’s way to tell his people, ‘I love you.’ Many years later, another Son would climb another hill, carrying wood on his back. Like Isaac, he would trust his Father and do what his Father asked. He wouldn’t struggle or run away. Who was he? God’s Son – the Son he loved. The Lamb of God.” (Lloyd-Jones, 69)

December 8

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg 70-75

Regular Bible: Genesis 29:14b-35

“And you’ll never guess what job God gave Leah. You see, when God looked at Leah, he saw a princess. And sure enough, that’s exactly what she became. One of Leah’s children’s children’s children would be a prince – the Prince of Heaven – God’s Son. This prince would love God’s people. They wouldn’t need to be beautiful for him to love them. He would love them with all of his heart. And they would be beautiful because he loved them. Like Leah.” (Lloyd-Jones, 74)

Memory Verse for the Week:

Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

December 9

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 76-83

Regular Bible: Genesis 37:3-36; 45:1-11

“One day God would send another Prince, a young Prince whose heart would break. Like Joseph, he would leave his home and his Father. His brothers would hate him and want him dead. He would be sold for pieces of silver, He would be punished even though he had done nothing wrong. But God would use everything that happened to this young Prince – even the bad things – to do something good: to forgive the sins of the whole world.” (Lloyd-Jones, 82-83)

December 10

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg.84-91

Regular Bible: Exodus 3:1-10

If you want to know more...

Plagues:

blood – Exodus 7:14-18

frogs – Exodus 8:1-4

gnats – Exodus 8: 16-18

flies – Exodus 9:20-21

livestock – Exodus 9:1-4

boils – Exodus 9:8-9

hail – Exodus 9:13-19

locusts – Exodus 10:4-6

darkness – Exodus 10:21-23

firstborn – Exodus 11:4-7; 12:12-13

Passover:

Exodus 12:1-30

“God’s people would always remember this great rescue and call it ‘Passover.’ But an even Greater Rescue was coming. Many years later, God was going to do it again. He was going to come down once more to rescue his people. But this time God was going to set them free forever and ever.” (Lloyd-Jones, 91)

December 11

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 92-99

Regular Bible: Exodus 14:13-31

“Many years later, once again, God was going to make a way where there was no way. From the beginning, God’s children had been running from him and hiding. God knew his children could never be happy without him. But they couldn’t get back to him by themselves – they were lost, they didn’t know the way back. But God knew a way. And one day he would show them.” (Lloyd-Jones, 98)

December 12

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 100-107

Regular Bible: Exodus 20:1-20

“Only one Person could keep all the rules. And many years later God would send him – to stand in their place and be perfect for them. Because the rules couldn’t save them. Only God could save them.” (Lloyd-Jones, 107)

December 13

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 108-115

Regular Bible: Joshua 6:1-20

“I’m afraid they didn’t keep their promise. They didn’t do what God said and many years later, just as God warned them, things would go badly for God’s people. They would lose their home. Enemies would capture them and take them off as slaves. And God’s people would scatter into many different lands. But God’s Plan was still working. One day he would give his people another Leader. And another home. But this home, no one would ever take from them.” (Lloyd-Jones, 114)

December 14

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 116-121

Regular Bible: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

“God chose David to be king because God was getting his people ready for an even greater King who was coming. Once again, God would say ‘Go to Bethlehem. You’ll find the new King there.’ And there one starry night in Bethlehem, in the town of David, three Wise Men would find him.” (Lloyd-Jones, 120)

December 15

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 122-129

Regular Bible: 1 Samuel 17:4-7; 33-50

“Many years later, God would send his people another young Hero to fight for them. And to save them. But this Hero would fight the greatest battle the world has ever known. (Lloyd-Jones, 129)

Memory Verse for the Week:

Deuteronomy 6:5 –

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

December 16

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 130-135

Regular Bible: Psalm 23:1-6

“Another Shepherd was coming – a greater Shepherd. He would be called the Good Shepherd. And this Shepherd was going to lead all of God’s lambs back to the place where they had always belonged – close to God’s heart.” (Lloyd-Jones, 135)

December 17

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 136-143

Regular Bible: 2 Kings 5:1-16

“God knew sin was like leprosy. It stopped his children’s hearts from working properly and in the end it would kill them. Years later, God was going to send another Servant, to forgive as she did – to forgive all of God’s children and heal the terrible sickness in their hearts. Their hearts were broken. But God can mend broken hearts.” (Lloyd-Jones, 143)

December 18

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 144-151

Regular Bible: Isaiah 9:6-7

“Poor Isaiah. He read God’s letter over and over to God’s people, but no one listened to him – at all. Ever. They didn’t want to hear God’s promise. They didn’t believe it. Did it sound maybe too good to be true? A story that ends happily ever after? Well, it does sound like a fairy tale, doesn’t it? And, as anyone will quickly tell you, fairy tales aren’t true. Or are they?” (Lloyd-Jones, 150)

December 19

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 152-159

Regular Bible: Daniel 6:1-28

“God would keep on rescuing his people. And the time was coming when God would send another brave Hero, like Daniel, who would love God and do what God said – whatever it cost him, even if it meant he would die. And together they would pull off the Greatest Rescue the world has ever known.” (Lloyd-Jones, 159)

December 20

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 160-169

Regular Bible: Jonah 1:1-17

“Many years later, God was going to send another Messenger with the same wonderful message. Like Jonah, he would spend three days in utter darkness. But this Messenger would be God’s own Son. He would be called ‘The Word’ because he himself would be God’s Message. God’s Message translated into our own language. Everything God wanted to say to the whole world – in a Person.” (Lloyd-Jones, 169)

December 21

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 170-175

Regular Bible: Nehemiah 8:1-12

“It had taken centuries for God’s people to be ready, but now the time had almost come for the best part of God’s plan. God himself was going to come. Not to punish his people – but to rescue them. God was getting ready to wipe away every tear from every eye. And the true party was just about to begin...” (Lloyd-Jones, 175)

December 22

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 176-183

Regular Bible: Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

“Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, ‘Emmanuel’ – which means ‘God has come to live with us.’ Because, of course, he had.” (Lloyd-Jones, 182)

Memory Verse for the Week:

Matthew 3:17 – This is my beloved Son, with who I am well pleased.

December 23

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 184-191

Regular Bible: Luke 2:8-20

“This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness. Helping people to see. And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine.” (Lloyd-Jones, 190)

December 24

Jesus Storybook Bible: pg. 192-199

Regular Bible: Matthew 2:1-12

“But this child was a new kind of king. Though he was was the Prince of Heaven, he had become poor. Though he was the Mighty God, he had become a helpless baby. This King hadn’t become to be the boss. He had come to be a servant.” (Lloyd-Jones, 198)

December 25

Merry Christmas!

Revisit Luke 2:1-20

“We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given up of his spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.” (1 John 4:12-16)

Reference:

Lloyd-Jones, Sally .*The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every story whispers his name.* Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, 2007